the legal aid programme in Punjab, Madhya Pradesh, Delhi and Haryana, during the period from 1991—93 is as under:—

Sl. No.	Name of the State Legal Aid and Advice Board	Number of persons benefitted
1.	Punjab	8,681
2.	Madhya Pradesh	87,479
3.	Delhi	4,916
4.	Haryana	1,552

Free Legal Aid in Saurashtra region of Gujarat

2044. SHRI ANANTRAY DEVSHANKER DAVE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the amount earmarked by Government for free legal aid to the poor and economically weaker sections of society during each of last three years and its utilisation, particularly in Rajkot, Bhavnagar, Junagadh, Amreli, Jamnagar, Surendra Nagar and Kutch districts of Saurashtra region;

(b) the reasons for not utilising these funds in some districts of Gujarat; and

(c) the effective measures taken/proposed to be taken by the central Government to make available free legal aid to the poor and weaker sections of society in Saurashtra region of Gujarat?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI H. R. BHARDWAJ): (a) The sanctioned Budget Grant under the sub-head 'Grant-in-aid' was Rs. 47 lakhs in 1990-91 and Rs. 40 lakhs each for 1991-92 and 1992-93 respectively. The grants released to the Gujarat State Legal Aid and Advice Board etc. during the last three years are as under:

Financial Year	Grant released
	(Rs.)
1990-91	1,00,000
1991-92	2,10,262
1992-93	1,75,136

The State Legal Aid and Advice Board distributes the grant amongst the District Legal Aid Committees on the basis of the Legal Aid Programmes to be undertaken by them. Special grant is given by Committee for Implementing Legal Aid Schemes (CILAS) on demand and during the years in question CILAS has not rejected any proposal for grant coming from Saurashtra region

(b) The reasons for non-utilisation of the funds by a State Government may differ for a variety of reasons depending upon law and order, floods/drought and attitude of the professionals etc.

(c) Various Legal Aid Programmes, such as promotion of Legal Literacy, holding of Legal Aid Camps/Lok Adalats, and Training of Para-Legal, etc. are being organised to make available Free legal aid to the poor and weaker sections of society in different parts of the country including Saurashtra region of Gujarat.

Restrictions on joining legal profession.

2045. SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA:
SHRIMATI MIRA DAS:
SHRI SARADA MOHANTY:
SHRI G. G. SWELL:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that these law graduates who have since retired from service are debarred to join legal profession when they have crossed over a certain age limit;

(b) if so, the purpose behind this decision and the date of implementation of the decision;

(c) whether such a decision has evoked sharp reaction; and

(d) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS: (SHRI H. R. BHARDWAJ): (a) and (b) The Bar Council of India has framed a rule prohibiting law gradrates above the age of 45 years from entering the legal profession. The said role came into force on 25-9-1993. It was claimed that the said rule was frame in public interest.